

to which he had been chosen with such acclamation. Though capable of leading a handful of soldiers against hordes of half-armed peasantry of whom everyone else was foolishly afraid, he was quite unable to direct one great army against another. He was outmanoeuvred and driven back to the coast, where he lost town after town almost without a struggle. He returned home, leaving a part of his army under a few officers to defend Bourbourg, the only relic of his conquests. It was soon afterwards surrendered, and our last foothold in Flanders was gone.

The Bishop had a heavy reckoning to pay to Parliament that autumn. The Commons had been deceived in him, and, as usually happens in such cases, considered that they had been deceived by him. The Lords were able to boast that they had foreseen the event, and joined heartily in the congenial task of crushing their enemy. He was impeached by the Commons for misconduct of the war, found guilty by the Lords and condemned to lose the temporalities of his see.¹ Under this ignominious eclipse, his figure disappears from English history, and the Mediaeval Church militant along with him. No sham crusade was ever again organised in our island.

The result of this last campaign was to bring the interference of England in Flanders to an end, and to set us within measurable distance of peace with France. Long years had been ineffectually wasted in fitful attempts to get better terms than those which should have been accepted as inevitable in '76. The result of the crusade at last opened the eyes of all to the real situation. Men began to desire peace,² but even now were unwilling to confess that they had been beaten. It was still considered beneath the dignity of England to acknowledge facts. The Commons recommended peace, but added a hope that the King would not accept the terms offered by the French.³ All that any government dared do was to make and prolong truces. The first of these, made in January 1384, lasted more than a year. Then there was again, for a short while, a fitful warfare, almost entirely confined, however, to the struggle for supremacy in Spain,

¹ *Rot. Parl.*, iii. 152-8. ² *Wals.*, ii. 110, 117, last line, 'inutili*.'

* *Rot. Par 1.* * iii. 170,